

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

E57

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ6696

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ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 PERC-00 DS-00
EUR-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 VCE-00 AC-01 DCP-01 NSAE-00
ACE-00 EPAE-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /004W
-----B536C6 291539Z /38

R 291528Z MAY 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6136
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
INFO NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MADRID

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 001517

NSC FOR MAISTO
INR FOR SALCEDO
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/28/02
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, CO, VE

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT: CHAVEZ ALLOWS CARMONA TO LEAVE FOR COLOMBIA

SUMMARY

1. (C) CITING INTERNATIONAL TREATY OBLIGATIONS, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ ON MAY 27 AUTHORIZED PEDRO CARMONA -- HEAD OF THE EPHEMERAL "INTERIM GOVERNMENT" OF APRIL 11-14 -- TO LEAVE THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, WHERE HE FLED APRIL 23, AND TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA. CARMONA DEPARTED VENEZUELA ON A COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE PLANE THE MORNING OF MAY 29. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
END SUMMARY.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 28 MAY 2012
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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B1

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BACKGROUND

2. (U) ON MAY 23, FOLLOWING A COURT ORDER RESCINDING HIS HOUSE ARREST AND ORDERING HIM TO BE RETURNED TO JAIL, PEDRO CARMONA FLED TO THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM. THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR ALLOWED HIM TO STAY IN HIS RESIDENCE UNTIL THE SITUATION WAS RESOLVED. ON MAY 26 THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT COLOMBIA HAD GRANTED CARMONA'S ASYLUM REQUEST. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO WAY CARMONA COULD MAKE USE OF THIS OFFER WITHOUT A SAFE CONDUCT PASS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO LEAVE THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY OF THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR THE AIRPORT WITHOUT BEING SUBJECT TO ARREST.

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CHAVEZ GIVES SAFE CONDUCT

3. (C) ON MAY 27, AT AN UNRELATED PUBLIC EVENT, CHAVEZ ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD SIGN THE SAFE CONDUCT, AND THAT CARMONA WOULD FLY OUT THE NEXT DAY. (IN FACT, CARMONA FLEW OUT THE MORNING OF MAY 29 ON A COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE PLANE THE MORNING OF MAY 29. THE REASON FOR THE DELAY WAS NOT CLEAR.) CHAVEZ DESCRIBED HIS DECISION AS ONE COMPELLED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW (COMMENT: IN FACT THE 1954 TREATY OF CARACAS DOES INDEED REQUIRE THE GRANTING OF A SAFE CONDUCT OF THIS KIND IN SUCH SITUATIONS). "WE HAVE A CONSTITUTION," CHAVEZ SAID, "AND THERE ARE INTERNATIONAL LAWS WHICH WE MUST OBEY. WE CANNOT FAIL TO CARRY OUT THE LAW. WE HAVE TO SHOW TO THE WORLD THAT THIS REPUBLIC RESPECTS EVEN ITS ENEMIES AND THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO DESTROY IT." AT THE SAME TIME, CHAVEZ DESCRIBED CARMONA AS A "AN ACCUSED PERSON ["REO" -- THE WORD CAN ALSO MEAN "CRIMINAL"] AND A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE." AS FOR COLOMBIA'S DECISION TO GRANT CARMONA ASYLUM, CHAVEZ DESCRIBED IT AS "A SOVEREIGN DECISION BY COLOMBIA WHICH WE MUST REGARD AS SUCH."

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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	EUR-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/003W			

-----B536D4 291540Z /38

R 291528Z MAY 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6137
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
INFO NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 001517

NSC FOR MAISTO

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